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Currency

The official unit of currency is the dinar, although the former Sudanese pound remains legal tender.

Government

General

Sudan, the largest country in Africa, is located in the NE part. It is bounded on the SE by Ethiopia and Eritrea, on the E by the Red Sea, on the N by Egypt, and on the NW by Libya. The country may be divided into two regions, as follows:

1. The region lying N of 16°N is a continuation of the Sahara Desert
 2. The region lying S of 16°N is fertile, abundantly watered, and densely wooded in places
- Sudan is traversed from S to N by the Nile River; the Nubian Desert extends between the valley of this river and the Red Sea. This desert consists of a rugged and barren wasteland scored with ravines where there is scanty vegetation.
- The climate is tropical in the S part, with a rainy season of April to October, and arid desert in the N part.

Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region A) is in effect. See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.



Flag of Sudan

Sudan, with the assent of Egypt and the United Kingdom, was proclaimed a sovereign independent republic in 1956. A military coup overthrew the civilian government in 1989. The ruling military junta, the Revolutionary Command Council, was dissolved in 1993 and the government civilianized. The Revolutionary Command Council's executive and legislative powers were devolved to the President and the appointed 300-member Transitional National Assembly. The government is dominated by members of Sudan's National Islamic Front, a fundamentalist political organization.

The President is directly-elected to serve a 5-year term. The unicameral National Assembly consists of 400 members; 275 members are directly elected, while 125 seats are filled by a assembly of interest groups known as the National Congress.

In 1994, a federal system of 26 states was set up, each subdivided into 66 provinces and 218 districts.

The rebel Sudanese People's Liberation Army maintains guerrilla activities in the S part of the country.

The legal system is based on Islamic law and English common law.

The capital is Khartoum.

Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

Independence Day	January 1
Orthodox Christmas	January 7
Coptic Christmas	January 9
National Unity Day	March 3
Easter Sunday	Varies
Revolution Day	May 25
Christmas Day	December 25

Islamic holidays, which are subject to the appearance of the moon, include Sham El Nassim, Mirag, Ramadan Bairam, Kurban Bairam, Eid Al-Fitr (End of Ramadan), Eid Al-Adha (End of Pilgrimage), Hijrah (Islamic New Year), Ashoora, and the Prophet's Birthday.

Industries

Agriculture is the primary industry. The major crops are cotton, sorghum, sugar cane, peanuts, gum, millet, wheat, and sesame.

Other industries include minerals, sugar processing, cotton ginning, textiles, cement, hides and skins, and petroleum products.

Languages

The official language is Arabic. Nubian, Ta Bedawie, Nilo-Hamitic, and English are used. Several diverse dialects of Nilotic and some Sudanic languages are also spoken.

Time Zone

The Time Zone description is CHARLIE (-3). Daylight Savings Time is not observed.

World Time Zone Chart

<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/ref/pdf/802801.pdf>

U.S. Embassy

The U.S. Embassy is situated at Shar'ia Ali Abdul Latif, Khartoum. Operations were suspended in 1996 and the staff relocated to the embassies in Nairobi, Kenya and Cairo, Egypt, from where they make periodic visits to Khartoum.

The mailing addresses are, as follows:

1. International mail—
P.O. Box 699
Khartoum
2. Diplomatic pouch—
APO AE 09829

U. S. Embassy Egypt Home Page

<http://usembassy.egnet.net>

U. S. Embassy Kenya Home Page

<http://usembassy.state.gov/nairobi>